

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 98

By Dickerson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Jeanne Stephenson Bodfish of Nashville, Comptroller of the Treasury for the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Jeanne Stephenson Bodfish, the first female Comptroller of the Treasury for the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Jeanne Stephenson Bodfish was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Jeanne S. Bodfish served with acumen and alacrity as Comptroller of the Treasury from 1953 to 1955, in which position she earned the respect of the citizens of Tennessee and state government officials for the exemplary quality of her work; and

WHEREAS, a native Nashvillian born on January 7, 1920, Jeanne Stephenson Bodfish was the daughter of Jay G. and Margaret Isbell Stephenson; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Vanderbilt University and member of Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority, Ms. Bodfish obtained both her Bachelor of Arts degree and Master of Arts degree from that esteemed school and earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, an extraordinarily capable and intelligent woman, from 1941 to 1943 Jeanne Bodfish served as personnel assistant on the staff of the Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada and later served as an instructor in the Political Science Department of Vanderbilt University from 1950 to 1952; and

WHEREAS, elected to the position of Comptroller of the Treasury by the Tennessee General Assembly in 1953, Jeanne Stephenson Bodfish only served one two-year term in that auspicious office, but her insightful decisions on governmental accountability impacted Tennessee state government for the next sixty years; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as Comptroller, Ms. Bodfish established the first set of policies and procedures for auditing county governments, bringing a new era of accountability to the citizens of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a no less significant action on her part was the employment of William R. Snodgrass as budget director, who went on to serve as Comptroller of the Treasury himself for forty-four years and returned the favor by hiring Ms. Bodfish to work within the Tax Relief Division of the Office of the Comptroller; and

WHEREAS, during her lifetime, Ms. Bodfish was the Vice President of the Youth Democratic Club of Tennessee, Secretary of the State Democratic Executive Committee, Americanism Chairman for Post 45 of the American Legion Auxiliary, and Legislative Chairman for the Nashville branch of the American Association of University Women; and

WHEREAS, she was also a member of the American Political Science Association, the Southern Political Science Association, and Society for Public Administration; and

WHEREAS, Jeanne Bodfish was an active and devout member of the Episcopal Church, which she served faithfully for many years in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by her husband, Robert Valentine Bodfish, Ms. Bodfish is survived by her daughter, Jayne Cleveland Bodfish Perkins; her son, John Morton Bodfish; her five grandchildren, Scott Sutton, Peggy Hackett, Bobby Lewis, John Bodfish, and Chris Bodfish; and four great-grandchildren, Kaylie Hackett, Matthew Hackett, Kayla Bliem, and Ashton Bodfish; and

WHEREAS, a gracious lady who embodied the ideals of community service and lived a life of purpose, Ms. Bodfish leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Jeanne Stephenson Bodfish, reflecting fondly

upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Ms. Bodfish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.